

BACKBENCHERS CAN SEE WANDERERS THROUGH

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, still very much involved in all the four competitions they entered this season, will edge into the final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup and thus a little nearer to an amateur soccer grand slam, should they dispose of Wokingham Town in tomorrow's clash at Loakes Park (3 p.m.).

The prospects for Wycombe in the remaining months of the campaign are: any, all or none out of the Isthmian League, Amateur Cup, Premier Floodlight League and County Senior Cup, plus the inevitability of a massive fixture congestion.

There's definitely a feast of football in store for the Blues, who will exclude Ted Powell (groin injury), John Delaney (shin injury), and Les Hartridge (cartilage trouble), for certain for their third meeting in three years with Wokingham.

Two seasons ago, Wycombe, the then Senior Cup holders, were surprisingly k.o.'d by Wokingham. Last season, Wokingham, by now holders themselves, were not so surprisingly beaten by Wanderers.

Only one member of the Athenians' squad, Lucas, remains, although Town hope to claim a counter-revenge. But even without some of their leading lights, Wycombe are, on paper, still the stronger of the two sides.

Their backbenchers this season have proved themselves worthy replacements in an emergency, and could well take Wycombe into their first final for three years.

The winners of tomorrow's match meet the ultimate victors in the three way pairing — Chesham versus Slough or Maidenhead. Maidenhead are present holders.

Geoff Anthony, who was used as substitute by Wales while Wanderers were winning their quarter-final tie in extra time at Didcot, suffered a kick on his ankle against Marlow on Tuesday, and waited until late in the week for a decision on whether he will be fit to play tomorrow.

Wokingham have beaten Abingdon 4-1 and Windsor and Eton 2-1 en route to the semi-final.

They start without goalkeeper Brian Callington, who is attending his sister's wedding. Callington, who stood in for John Maskell in the Berks and Bucks team against Kent at York Road recently, is replaced by Ian Bath, a former Loughborough College player.

Also unavailable are top scorer Phil Stanbury, in hospital with an abscess on his appendix, and Kevin Pearce.

Further doubts lie over defender Brandon (swollen

ankle) and Tollervey (groin strain). Jeffries and Cockroft stand by.

Wokingham are expected to field ex-Slough man Farook Quraishi, and full-back Titterton, who impressed when called into the Allied Counties side at Maidenhead.

Julian Lailey, turned out for Southern League club, Cheltenham against Trowbridge on Wednesday night, hoping to hasten his return to match fitness.

FOOTNOTE: A plea from Wycombe for spectators to have the correct money ready when buying a programme for tomorrow's match. The programmes cost two and a half new pence each, and it is hoped with everyone's co-operation to avoid any confusion with the young sellers at the ground.